

TENSIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

GROUP LEADER GUIDE: WEEK ONE

PERFECT LOVE

Spend a few minutes to getting to know each other. If everyone is a Christian in your group, have whoever is leading open in prayer.

GROUP QUESTION: How would you have defined love before Sundays message?

PERFECT LOVE PRINCIPLE: WHAT YOU LOVE IS THE BASIS OF YOUR IDENTITY.

GROUP QUESTIONS: Where do you draw your identity from? (Taken from Gumbel, Keller Interview. If you want to watch this on YouTube and then ask the questions, you can. Start at time stamp 11:52.)

Family of Origin Identity: comes from what your parents, family, and community think of you. You will have self worth, happiness and like yourself as long as you do what is expected of you. Be a good son, daughter, husband, wife, father, mother. Your identity was found in doing what you where expected to do. This one is stifling.

Self identity: comes from finding your identity in your desires. You look inside your heart and ask, "What do I most want to do", then I go out and do that, and if I do that, I will feel good about myself. This one doesn't work. Your desires contradict and change. When you try to accomplish your dreams and fail, it is crushing. Your job is not forgiving.

MAIN POINT: CHRISTIANITY IS NEITHER.

It is who you are in Jesus. God is the only one, who's opinion of you counts. Your freedom is found in knowing God, because that is what you where built for.

Why do we form our identity around other things, vs. around Jesus? How has your struggle with identity effected your life?

ACTION STEP: NAME ONE THING YOU COULD TAKE OUT OF YOUR LIFE AND REPLACE WITH A MORE PERFECT LOVE.

VERSES

God is Love.

1 John 4:16

Key Verse

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for each other through the filter of this prayer using the words given through Jesus Spirit.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1: 9-11

Further Study if time allows

THE GOLDEN RULE

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.
Matthew 7:12

GROUP QUESTIONS: How is this reflected in the key verse?

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. **Do everything in love.**
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Sermon Point 02.14: The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Everything from Jesus is from God. Jesus explains everything to us. He cleans and forgives us of everything. Through His Spirit everything is revealed that we need. And ultimately everything will be restored by Him.
(John 3:35-36, John 17:6-8, John 4:25-26, Hebrews 9:20-22, John 14:23-27(25-27), Acts 3:21-23)

EVERYTHING IS IN JESUS HANDS.

John 3:35-36: The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them
Ephesians 1:22-23: God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

EVERYTHING FROM JESUS IS FROM THE FATHER.

John 17:6-8: "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

JESUS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING TO US.

John 4:25-26: The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."
John 15:15-17: I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

JESUS CLEANSSES EVERYTHING.

Hebrews 9:20-22: He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL REMIND YOU OF EVERYTHING JESUS SAID.

John 14:23-27(25-27): "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

2 Peter 1:3: His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

JESUS RESTORES EVERYTHING.

Acts 3:21-23: Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.'

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS IS EVERYTHING.

Luke 14:25-35: Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

**ACTION STEPS: IF YOU NEED TO PUT YOUR FAITH IN JESUS TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY WITH YOUR GROUP, "I WANT TO FOLLOW JESUS WITH EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE AND OBEY HIS TEACHINGS."
IF YOU KNOW JESUS, CAN YOU SAY, "I AM IN LOVE WITH HIM"? IF NOT, WHAT ONE THING WILL YOU DO TO WORK ON YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?**